

Muscogee

Nation News

Feb. 2, 2012
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Official Semi-Monthly Publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Principal Chief brings State of the Nation to National Council



Pictured above (from left to right) are Muscogee (Creek) National Council Second Speaker Cherrah Ridge, Legislative Secretary Terry Fish, Principal Chief George Tiger, Sgt.-At-Arms Shirlene Ade and Rep. Thomas Yahola.

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — In a spirit of cooperation, Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, George Tiger, delivered his first State of the Nation address to the Muscogee National Council and citizens Jan 28, 2012.

Tiger said that he, “had sat down together in a unified manner as two equal branches of government and talked about issues facing our nation. The line of communication has not happened in many years.” His predecessor, A.D. Ellis, had not addressed the National Council with his State of the Nation speech for two years.

Tiger delivered his address, outlining his ‘tribal vision statement’ from the Claude Cox Omniplex Multipurpose Building, to the National Council and assembled citizens. He also listed accomplishments for his administration during the first month in office.

In that address, Tiger unveiled

an aggressive plan to deal with issues facing the tribe. His agenda includes reorganization of procedures for tribal departments and an effort to strengthen ties with tribal towns and communities.

Executive orders that had revoked charters for the Duck Creek and Eufaula communities were lifted.

Tiger plans to meet with the leadership and members of communities to obtain their input for reforms. The principal chief will also be authorizing a financial review of tribal investments and funds to analyze their performance and find ways to increase returns.

He added that he would be working to dismiss the numerous lawsuits that have created “turmoil between the branches” of tribal government.

Restrictions on contacts between tribal employees and national council representatives will be eliminated.

Tiger declared, “It is my belief that all employees should be able to

ness planning grant has been filed, farming leases are in negotiation, and new nominations for district court judges, justices, an attorney general and College of the Muscogee Nation regents have been made.

He has called for tribal budgets to be developed in a “constitutional process” and assessed to ensure efficient

“We will expand and improve our programs and services and zealously seek economic development to attain these goals. We are still here. We are Mvskoke!”

— Principal Chief George Tiger

spending and transparency.

In conclusion, Tiger vowed, “We will expand and improve our programs and services and zealously seek economic development to attain these goals. We are still here. We are Mvskoke!”

communicate with elected officials without the threat of being fired.” Additions will be made for the tribe’s supreme court and the Gaming Operations Authority Board.

Tiger also listed initiatives that he has undertaken in his first month in office. An application for a small busi-

Administration extends requests for resumes

Media Release
MCN Office of the Principal Chief

OKMULGEE — Jan. 7, 2012 marked the beginning of a new era in the long and proud history of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the beginning of a new tribal administration.

The newly elected Principal Chief has a new vision for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. It is a vision that includes upholding traditional Muscogee ways and values while at the same time elevating the Nation’s government and business operations to unprecedented levels of effective-

ness, accountability and service. To accomplish this ambitious vision, we need to fill multiple leadership positions across the Nation’s administrative, health, education, social services, law enforcement, judiciary, and business operations.

Potential candidates should possess the following

- Experience
- Education
- Proven track record of leadership and accomplishment
- Demonstrate a winning attitude

- Work well in a team environment

- Strong commitment to the Administration’s vision and goals for the Muscogee (Creek) people

If you meet the qualifications...

Submit your resume or C.V. to LSpaulding@MekkoTiger.com and include the following:

- Experience
- Skills in field of endeavor
- Explanation of why you feel you are a good fit for this tribal administration

Attach examples of your winning attitude, how you have made a difference, your leadership successes and how you have worked well in a team environment to achieve ambitious goals and a shared vision.

We want you! Join us and make a difference! All positions are subject to Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Native American hiring preference

Ce’puyacetos ce!

For more information about Muscogee (Creek) Nation, visit our website at www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov.



MCN Citizenship Board to host public hearing March 8, 2012

Media Release
MCN Citizenship Office

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Board, under the authority granted by (M(C) NCA) Title 7, § 2-109 A, has created policies and procedures.

The purpose of the policies and procedures is to provide an administrative framework for internal operational procedures, including, but not limited to: rules for the review of citizenship applications, for hearings and appeals, and such other purposes necessary for the efficient performance of the MCN Citizenship Board’s operations.

A public hearing will be held March 8, 2012 from 6-7 p.m., at the Mound Building Auditorium to discuss these policies and procedures.

Prior to the public hearing, a copy of the policies and procedures will be available for review at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Office located at the Capitol Complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

For more information, contact the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Office at (918) 732-7753.

MNN 3 - PEOPLE

Giles-Ridge Announcement



MNN 4 - LOCAL NEWS

Twin Hills breaks ground on convenience store



MNN 6 - FEATURE

McGirt earns high school diploma after nearly 60 years



MNN 7 - EDUCATION

International meeting held at Euchee House



MNN 8 - ADVERTISEMENT

Summer Youth 2012



CREEK NATION COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Reintegration Program Coat Drive

HENRYETTA — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Reintegration program is still taking donations of new or gently used coats. Donations can be dropped off at the MCN Reintegration program or arrangements can be made to have them picked up.

For more information, please contact Becky Billingsly at (800) 259-1059 or (918) 652-2676.

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

OKMULGEE — February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

The MCN Family Violence Prevention program is asking Muscogee teens to take the pledge to always treat their dating partners with respect.

Teens should post the pledge to their Facebook or Twitter page, email the pledge to coworkers and text the pledge to friends.

“Break The Silence. Be Part of the Solution.”

For more information, or to request a presentation about dating violence, please contact Mitzi Pope,

Youth Advocate with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program at 1-800-521-5432.

Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative to host Harvest Meal Feb. 17

SAPULPA — Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative will host a Harvest Meal in the Sapulpa Feb. 17, 2012 at the Sapulpa Indian Community Center located at 1020 North Brown Street in Sapulpa, beginning at 4 p.m.

Community members are encouraged to bring their child/grandchild to this event and share their gardening stories with them. MFSI will provide the meal, and community members are welcome to bring their favorite dish, if desired. The event will feature free garden seeds, door prizes and fun for all ages.

MFSI Education and Policy Coordinator Rita Williams will have a presentation on “Growing Healthy Communities” at this free event.

The goal of MFSI is to spark an interest in the youth to garden and sell their produce at a local farmers

market and to encourage elders to container garden while sharing their stories with the youth.

Other events hosted by MFSI this month include:

- Feb. 12 - 1 p.m. - Osafke Cooking Class - Wilson Indian Community Center
- Feb. 17 - 4 p.m. - Youth and Elder Harvest Meal - Sapulpa Indian Community Center
- Feb. 19 - 1 p.m. - Pumpkin Seed Saving and Cooking Class - Wilson Indian Community Center
- Feb. 26 - 1 p.m. - Cvtvhakv burning - Wilson Indian Community Center

Please RSVP with the MFSI Office (918) 756-5915 to Melody Reader (918) 752-6113, Stephanie Berryhill (918) 759-0817, or June Marshall (918) 752-6139.

Parent Committee Grocery Bingo set for March 17

OKMULGEE — The OSU Parent Committee 2011-2012, is hosting a fund-raiser bingo at Okmulgee Indian Community Center Sat. March 17.

Bingo starts at 1 p.m., with the

food sale beginning at 11 a.m.

Most of the food items were donated by local businesses. Some of the items available will be homemade chili, desserts, chili-cheese hotdogs, Frito pies and popcorn.

We will also announce the winners of the Lucky Charm Contest.

For more information, contact the Parent Committe at (918) 304-0476 or (918) 752-1444 or by email at: lmbear@okstate.edu

Summer Youth application deadline set for March 16

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Summer Youth Employment Program is accepting applications for the upcoming year.

The deadline for submitting applications is March 16, 2012 at the Human Development Employment and Training Office.

For more information, please contact 918-732-7775 or 7776. You may also call 1-800-482-1979 ext. 7775 or 7776. No fax applications will be accepted. Applicants must be a member of a federally recognized tribe and between the ages of 16 and 21.

Little Cussetah UMC to host wild onion dinner March 24

SCHULTER — Little Cussetah United Methodist will host their annual wild onion dinner Saturday, March 24 beginning at 11 a.m. Diners will be \$7 for adults and \$5 for children and include all-you-can-eat items such as salt meat, sofkey, drink and dessert.

For more information, check them out on Facebook at Little Cussetah UMC or contact Paul Tecumseh at (918) 270-0213 or Nelson Harjo at (918) 752-7731.

Sexual Assault Awareness Walk set for April 11

OKMULGEE — “Walk a Mile In Her Shoes” is the theme for the 2012 Sexual Assault Awareness Walk, set for April 11, 2012.

The event will begin at 1 p.m. at the MCN Mound building. It is sponsored by the MCN Family Violence Prevention Program.

For more information, contact Tina Qualls at (918)-813-6900 or email tqalls@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month



TAKE THE PLEDGE!

I PLEDGE:

To **ALWAYS** treat my dating partner with **RESPECT**,
NEVER HURT my partner physically, verbally, or emotionally,
NOT be controlling or **Manipulative**,
And to **ACCEPT** Responsibility for my actions.

TAKE A MOMENT AND PLEDGE

February 2012

- Post the Pledge to your FACEBOOK or TWITTER page
- Email the Pledge to your co-workers
- Text the pledge to your friends

BREAK THE SILENCE. BE PART OF THE SOLUTION.

For more information or to request a presentation about Dating Violence, please contact Mitzi Pope, Youth Advocate, with Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program at 1 (800) 521-5432.

ACCOMPLISHMENT

NORA CHEEK



OKLAHOMA CITY — Nora R. Cheek (Arhalokoche) was one of 50 recipients of the Oklahoma Indian Elders Honored at the AARP Awards dinner held Oct. 4, 2011, at the Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City.

Nora R. Cheek was born July 27, 1918 in Okemah, Okla., to Siah Manley and Susie Robison-Manley (Sister Hutke). Nora married Weaver Cheek (Arhalokoche) And had 10 children, seven girls and three boys, and was employed with the Cooperton School as a cook where she remained for five years.

After the death of Weaver Cheek (Arhalokoche), Nora returned to Okemah with her children and attended Thlopthlocco Methodist Church.

Nora worked at the Okemah cafeteria for several years until she attained employment as a Medical Care Aide until the time of her retirement, after which, she became more involved with her tribal town of Thlopthlocco as an employee and tribal member still exercising her heritage and birth right by participation and her voting privilege.

Through her works and services to her community, she earned the respect and love of the citizens of Okemah and several local business owners and city leaders as well as her Thlopthlocco Tribal Town where she is the oldest surviving member, and of the Bird Clan.

In 2007 she was selected Co-Parade Marshall by the Okemah Indian Community during the Creek Nation Fall Festival.

Cheek (Arhalokoche) loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, devoted and committed to her faith and belief in Our lord and Father, her legacy will be carried forward through her 24 grand-children and 39 great-grand-children.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GILES - RIDGE



TULSA — Cherrah De'Ann Ridge of Broken Arrow Tribal Town from the Bird Clan to wed Justin Bruce Giles of Broken Arrow Tribal Town from the Tiger Clan.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Eddie and Debbie (Bender) Ridge of Tulsa. She is the granddaughter of the late Bennie and Ella (Colbert) Bender and the late Watie and Helen (Holmes) Ridge.

The prospective bridegroom is the son of John and Marcella (Burgess) Giles of McLean, Va. He is the grandson of the late Yahola and Lahoma (Moore) Burgess and the late Richard and Cornelia (Cuppett) Giles

The bride-elect graduated from Booker T. Washington High School and the University of Oklahoma.

Ridge is a social worker with St. John Medical Center and Second Speaker of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council.

The prospective bridegroom graduated from Langley High School and University of Virginia.

He is Assistant Director of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Museum and Cultural Center.

The wedding is planned for Oct. 6, 2012, at Muscogee (Creek) Nation Capitol in Okmulgee, Okla.

JACKSON - EVANS



TULSA — Robert Darrell Jackson Jr., and Krystal Dawn Evans, both of Tulsa, were united in marriage Dec. 3, 2011.

The Bride is the daughter of Gary and Darla Evans of Owasso and Anita Toddy of Tulsa. She is the granddaughter of Melba Wadsworth.

The Groom is the son ofJames and Karen Calitri and Robert Darrell Jackson Sr., all of Tulsa.

His maternal grandparents are Charles and Marilyn Watson of Jenks and his paternal grandparents are Roy C. Jackson of Tulsa and the late Virgie Wind Jackson.

The ceremony and reception were held at the Arrow Springs Chapel in Broken Arrow. After a wedding trip to Fla., the couple has made their home in Tulsa.

BIRTH

PARKER REED DEROIN

TULSA — Parker Reed DeRoin of Eufaula and Hominy was born Nov. 12, 2011 at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa.

He weighed six pounds, 15 ounces and was 21.25 inches long.

DeRoin is Muscogee (Creek), Otoe-Missouria and Osage.



He is a member of the Bear Clan and attends Big Arbor Indian Baptist Church.

Parents are Reuben Battiste DeRoin and Erin Saltsman.

Parker has one brother, Alexander DeRoin.

Maternal grandparents are Gordon Parker Jr., and Lynda Saltsman .

Paternal grandparents are Reuben Reed and Meleaia DeRoin.

Maternal great-grandparents are Gordon Parker Sr., and Frankie Saltsman, and Sandy and Louise McIntosh.

Paternal great-grandparents are Reuben Hoss and Ruth Ferguson DeRoin, and Gordon Smith and Betty Mullins.

BIRTHDAY

JUSTIN BERRYHILL



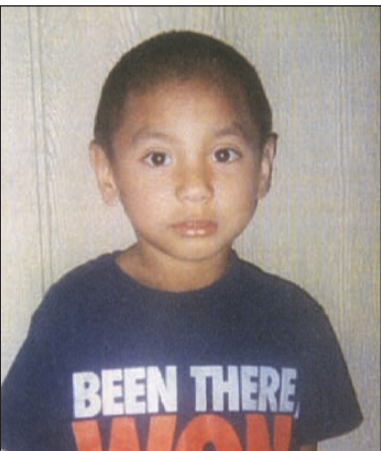
OKLAHOMA CITY — Justin “Tenetke” Berryhill celebrated his seventh birthday Nov. 22, 2011 with a with a football themed party Dec. 3, 2011 at the Science Museum of Oklahoma along with school friends and family.

He is in first grade at Oklahoma Christian School in Edmond.

Mother is Rene’ Berryhill-Mutuku of Edmond.

Grandparents are Merle Berryhill of Preston and Beatrice Lowe-Meshaya and Terry Meshaya of Arcadia.

CLINTON FACTOR



SAND SPRINGS — Clinton Kelly Factor celebrated his fifth birthday Jan. 18, 2012.

Factor is the son of Reuben and Cynthia Factor. His grandparents are Bonnie Factor and Tony Grayson, also Richard Watashe and Marvin and Connie Edmonds.

Factor is a member of Big Cussetah United Methodist Church.

KUNAWV KAULAITY



OKLAHOMA CITY — Kunawv Lozen Kaulaity celebrated her fourth birthday Jan. 14, 2012.

She celebrated at Chuck-E-Cheese in Oklahoma City with siblings: Mekhia Mendoza, Sv-le-kv McKinney and Jonas Kaulaity.

Kunawv is the daughter of Kicup Koce “Ekaese.” McKinney is from Tulsa and Gary “B.J.” Kaulaity of Apache.

Kunawv is Creek, Cherokee, Ft. Sill, Apache, Comanche and Kiowa.

Kunawv’s maternal grandparents are Carlene McCarter-Echo Hawk of Tahlequah and Danny McKinney of Tulsa.

She is the great-granddaughter of Bennie McKinney and Jessie Gray. She is the great-great-granddaughter of the late Netche Gray.

Paternal grandparents are Diane Mithlo-Downing of Apache and Gary Kaulaity Sr. of Anadarko. She is the great granddaughter of Juanita Bentley of Apache.

Kunawv is a student at Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start in Okmulgee.

PAULO RODRIGUEZ



SPRING, Texas — Paulo Daniel Rodriguez celebrated his sixth birthday Nov. 4, 2011 with his family in Spring, Texas.

Rodriguez has two siblings, Diego, 8, and Carlo, 1. He is the son of Daniel and Caitlyn Rodriguez.

Rodriguez is the grandson of Robert Combs and Lynn Lutzen. He is also grandson of Jesus Rodriguez and Wilma Daal. Rodriguez is great-grandson of Joanna and Harold Combs.

Rodriguez is a member of Coweta Tribal Town.



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Please contact our office for deadline of submissions to be considered for inclusion. ***The Muscogee Nation News*** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate ***The Muscogee Nation News*** in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed from Stigler, Okla., to all enrolled citizens’ households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

TO CHANGE OR SUBMIT AN ADDRESS, PLEASE CALL (918) 732-7720 or send e-mail to: wmurphy@muscogeenation-nsn.gov



DIEGO RODRIGUEZ



SPRING, Texas — Diego Robert Rodriguez celebrated his eighth birthday Oct. 31, 2011 with his family in Spring, Texas.

Rodriguez has two siblings, Paulo, 6, and Carlo, 1. He is the son of Daniel and Caitlyn Rodriguez.

Rodriguez is the grandson of Robert Combs and Lynn Lutzen. He is also grandson of Jesus Rodriguez and Wilma Daal. Rodriguez is great-grandson of Joanna and Harold Combs.

Rodriguez is a member of Coweta Tribal Town.

Birthdays, Births & Special Announcements!

Birthday:

Roll Number: _____

Phone Number: (____) _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Theme of the party: _____

Parents: _____

Siblings: _____

Maternal and Paternal grandparents: _____

Maternal and Paternal great grandparents: _____

School: _____

Clan: _____

Tribal Town: _____



Birth:

Roll Number: _____

Phone Number: (____) _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Name of Hospital: _____

Weight: _____ pounds _____ ounces _____ inches

Parents: _____

Siblings: _____

Maternal and Paternal grandparents: _____

Maternal and Paternal great grandparents: _____

Clan: _____

Tribal Town: _____



Announcements:

Roll Number: _____

Phone Number: (____) _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Parents: _____

Siblings: _____

Maternal and Paternal grandparents: _____

Maternal and Paternal great grandparents: _____

Clan: _____

Tribal Town: _____

Please attach announcement



Twin Hills breaks ground on convenience store



MNN/Lee Longhorn

Pictured above (from left to right) are Contractor Terry Addington, Store Manager Gary Hudgens, Community Treasurer Norma Hale, Rep. James Jennings, Second Chief Roger Barnett, Community Chairman Levi On-The-Hill, Community Secretary Patsy Morgan and Community Vice-Chair Mark Pendergrass.

Media Release
Twin Hills Community

TWIN HILLS — The Twin Hills Creek Indian Community has been working on a new economic endeavor for the past six years. On Dec. 16, 2011, the community broke ground on a new Convenience Plaza. Community members as well as Muscogee (Creek) Nation Speak-

er Roger Barnett (at the time of the event) and Okmulgee Dist. Rep. James Jennings along with construction contractor Terry Addington of CT Construction were present for the ground-breaking ceremony. The name of the store will be Twin Hills Convenience Plaza. The store will offer a much-needed resource to

the surrounding community that will offer gasoline, food as well as fountain drinks and other refreshments. The store will be open seven days a week, with the hours to be determined. The store will began construction in January 2012 and is estimated to be completed in 90-120 days, pending weather conditions.

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For more information contact: Tammi Reed-Barnett
at (918) 732-7883 OR email: tammirb@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

NICWA
National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting our children • Preserving our culture

Students invited to register for language fair

Media Release
Sam Noble Museum

NORMAN—Students of Native American languages from preschool to high school age are encouraged to enter the 10th annual Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair, scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, April 2 and 3, at the Sam Noble Museum in Norman. Participants in grades pre-K through 12 will demonstrate their language skills as groups or individuals in the spoken language and language in song categories.

Other competition categories include poster art and book categories, open to grades three through 12; language with PowerPoint presentation and film/video categories, both open to sixth-through 12th-graders; a language advocacy essay category, open to grades nine through 12; and a language masters performance category for grades nine through 12, designed to showcase the language skills of students who have grown up speaking a Native American language. A new category for 2012 is poetry writing and performance; it is open to all ages. Registration deadline is March 12.

The competition draws more than 600 participants from across Oklahoma as well as neighboring states competing in as many as 27 Native American languages. Pre-K through fifth-grade competitions will take place on Monday, April 2; sixth- through 12th-grade competitions are set for Tuesday, April 3. The top three award-winners in each age group and category will receive a trophy that can be displayed at their school or tribal center. Every student who participates will receive a medallion and Language Fair T-shirt. For the 10th anniversary, every student also will receive a 2012 calendar with poster art for the last 10 years in addition to other language prizes. Fair participants will be honored

at the state capitol on Monday, April 9, and all students and programs are invited to attend.

A panel of elders and teachers from several different tribes will judge the spoken language and language in song competitions. Native artists will judge the posters based on creativity and use of this year's theme, “Language in My Heart.” In addition, Native authors will judge the book and poetry competitions.

To register and for additional information, visit <http://nal.snomnh.ou.edu/onaylf>. Deadline for registration is Monday, March 12. PowerPoint presentations, films, books, poetry, and poster entries must be received by March 16. No late entries will be accepted.

To have forms sent by mail, or for additional information, participants may contact the museum's Native American Languages department at (405) 325-7588 or by email at ONAYLF@snomnh.ou.edu. The 2011 Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair is made possible, in part, by the Boeing Company and the Cyril Foundation.

The Sam Noble Museum is located on the University of Oklahoma Norman campus at Timberdell Road and Chautauqua Avenue. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors 65 and up, and \$3 for youth ages 6 to 17. Children ages 5 and under are free. Discounts are available for military personnel and their immediate families. There is no additional admission fee to see Warrior Spirits.

For more information about the museum, call (405) 325-4712, or visit the museum's website at www.snomnh.ou.edu.

The Mortgage Down Payment and Closing Cost Program

The Mortgage Down Payment and Closing Cost Program helps Native Americans become first time homeowners by providing financial assistance for acquiring a home mortgage.

To pre-qualify for the program, the applicant must meet the following requirements.

- Preference will be given to Creek Citizens.
- Be a first time home buyer or not have owned a home within five years of application.
- Live within the State of Oklahoma.
- Must not be an existing or former Mutual Help participant or NAHASDA Homebuyer/Lease with Option to Purchase regardless of Housing Service Area.
- Have an annual family income which does not exceed 80% of the national Median income as published by HUD.
- Be 18 years or older.
- Provide all requested information, which includes Citizenship cards for preference purposes, Social Security cards and employment verification for each working family member.
- Sign all required forms including the Consent for Disclosure of Information.
- Meet all credit check and financial obligations for loan assistance from an approved and certified financial lender.

FOR A PRE-APPLICATION CONTACT LADONNA NORTHCROSS AT 918-549-2554 OR VISIT THE WEBSITE AT www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov

The Mortgage Down Payment Assistance program Pre-Approval does not guarantee a Mortgage Loan from an Outside Lender.

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ULTIMATE ALTIMA

WIN A 2012 NISSAN ALTIMA FEBRUARY 11TH 2011



His-n-Her \$10K Giveaways Feb. 14th Valentines Day

3PM - 9PM

Chocolate candy for every Diamond Club member. 2 Hot Seat drawings for men and 2 Hot Seat drawings for ladies every 1/2 hour from 3:30PM - 8:30PM.

\$10,000 in cash prizes for the men must go and \$10,000 in cash prizes for the women must go!



President's Day Scratch -n- Match February 20th 3PM - 9PM

Each Diamond Club member will receive a President's Day scratch off game card. Prizes include \$10, \$20, and \$50 match plays, \$100 free plays or \$500 cash prizes.



PRESIDENT'S DAY SCRATCH-N-MATCH

Mardi Gras
Feb. 25th

\$10 Match Play

Must be a Diamond Club member to participate. Every Diamond Club member will receive a \$10 match play.

Hot Seat Prize Drawings

We will conduct five (5) - \$100 free play hot seat drawings every 1/2 hour from 1:30 PM - 8:30 PM, one (1) \$250 cash hot seat prize drawing every 1/2 hour from 1:30 PM - 7:00 PM, \$1,000 cash hot seat prize drawings at 7:30 PM and 8:00 PM, a \$5,000 cash hot seat prize drawing at 8:30 PM.



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Coming and Going in Indian Country

by Joy Harjo

I have been up here in Vancouver, B.C., hosted by the First Nations House of Learning here at the University of British Columbia. This program of indigenous studies is quite a cultural model for other indigenous studies programs, and could even be a model for a cultural and arts center for our tribe.

The longhouse is a traditional gathering place for nations in this area and reflects the architecture of the Northwest Coast. Sty-Wet-Tan Hall is marked by four stunning totem poles, made to provide a foundation of understanding for the students, faculty, staff, community members and all who enter. It is the center. There is a sense of home throughout the center that houses offices, a library and gathering places for students and community. It is quite inspiring.

While here I have met with classes at the university, and with community groups. I will be performing my play and music. I visited with women's groups at the Friendship Centre in East Vancouver. The second group was at a youth center for young women who have dealt with domestic violence and other difficulties. This was a highlight. We met together at their center, and then we took a van to North Vancouver to the Squamish Reserve to meet with the skipper who agreed to take us out on the water together.

Wes Baker is his English name.

This was not a usual request. The canoes don't usually go out in winter. We went out in a West Coast traditional Salish canoe to the water to paddle together. Wes knew the canoe as if it were his own body. He knew the water also in that manner. I appreciated the protocols that made a ceremony of entering the canoe, entering the water and moving through the waters together, and for the return. The canoe culture has revived and grown in the last several years, with many canoes from many of the nations up here journeying miles across water. It takes great strength of working together of mind, body and spirit to paddle a canoe through the waters. And everyone must pull together. As we traveled he told us many stories of the place, of the waters, and one anecdote was of a very generous friend who is always the first one to find the store, or Wal-Mart wherever they go on these paddles. She always brings them something back. They have honored her with the name: "Shopsalot." He had a great sense of humor. I will always remember this day. It was a special one on the necklace of days.

What has threaded through this time here is the song "Espoketis Omes Kerreskos." I hear it and sing it constantly. I have been studying how our Mvskoke music is a root of jazz, blues and rock. To even state what has become a very obvious truth rocks the foundation of American music. Hugh Foley, one of our Okla., musicologists showed me how this song marks the trail of influence. It is a kind of song line that follows the Trail of Tears. Take a listen to the Rolling Stones, "The Last Time" and you'll here one direction the trail led. We were there at the birth of American music.

This morning I head out into the day. This could be the last time, we never know. So let's act with the kind of awareness and treat everyone with kindness.

Mvto.



McGirt earns high school diploma after nearly 60 years

Gerald Wofford
MCN Communications Manager

MOSS — For most people, graduating from high school only takes an average of 18 years, however, for Raymond McGirt, it took almost a lifetime. Not that McGirt dropped out or didn't want to obtain this important educational document; it's just that an event called World War II kind of got in the way.

In 1944, McGirt was a junior set to graduate from Lamar High School, but when the terrible global event occurred, McGirt, like so many young men of his age, answered the call.

McGirt was drafted, even though he was still finishing high school. "Uncle Sam sent me the papers," recalls McGirt, "they weren't going to change their minds, either, about that," said McGirt when explaining his youthful status.

McGirt saw combat duty in the Pacific serving in the U.S. Army, 2nd Battalion, 20th Infantry Division, and beside facing a determined Japanese force, dealt with other conditions that island occupation brings such malaria, mosquitoes and the daily orders of being patient and dug out in foxholes.

McGirt also made the historic landing at Lujan in January 1945. McGirt described the fighting style of the Japanese as "very strong" and in his opinion; he would have rather fought the German Army in the Pacific.

"The Japanese had such tenacity, it seemed even when you had them on the run, they would simply reorganize and come right back at you," McGirt remembers.

After the Japanese surrendered



MNNI/Gerald Wofford

Raymond McGirt received his high school diploma 59 years after he was in school. His studies were disrupted by his service in WWII as a draftee to the U.S. Army in 1944.

in September 1945, McGirt, like so many of thousands of veterans would return to civilian life, but it didn't seem to suit him. January 1946 saw McGirt make the decision of re-enlisting and his tour of duty included

another horrific war in Korea.

During his second tour, McGirt was able to learn about engineering, which helped him when he returned to civilian life. He found employment as an engineer and construc-

tion worker for 36 years.

Years passed and future wars and conflicts the United States were involved with occurred. McGirt and many from his generation, which earned the nickname 'The Greatest Generation,' saw their sacrifices recognized and honored more and more by future generations.

McGirt was honored to have these salutes, but of all the honors that he and his brothers-in-arms received, there was another that he greatly sought. McGirt had always thought about what it might have been like to walk across the stage of his High School Auditorium and receive his high school diploma, the one that eluded him so many years before.

The answer would actually come in simplistic terms. "A friend of mine in Lamar was curious as to if I ever received my high school diploma," explains McGirt. "He told me that he had a niece that worked in the high school principal's office and would see into it. Later, I received a letter from the school stating that they would be honored to have me participate in their graduation ceremonies to receive my diploma."

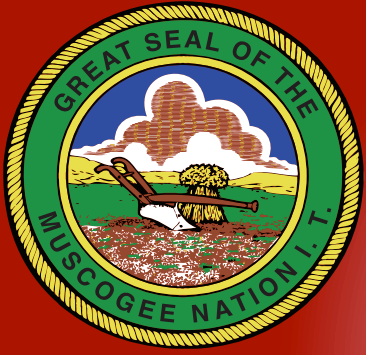
On May 17, 2003, former U.S. Army Pvt. Raymond McGirt finally received his high school diploma. The special ceremony was attended by nearly everyone in the small town of nearby Moss.

"The biggest dilemma now is if Raymond may attend the 10-year reunion next year!" laughs wife, Paula.

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER & VETERAN AFFAIRS SERVICES OFFICE

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International meeting held at Euchee House



Euchee House/Richard Grounds

Pictured above from left to right are Euchee-speaking elders Maxine Barnett, Josephine Bigler with Mongolian lawyer Beasankhuu Oktyabri, translator Sarangerel Langstrand with Henry Washburn. Oktyabri visited the Euchee House in December 2011 as part of the International Visitor Leadership Program funded by the U.S. State Dept.

Dr. Richard Grounds
Euchee House Director

SAPULPA — An unusual meeting between a legal scholar from Mongolia and elders of the Euchee Nation took place Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2011 at the Euchee House located at 1010 S. Main in Sapulpa, Okla.

The meeting featured Mongolian lawyer Beasankhuu Oktyabri, who came as a guest of the U.S. Department of State through the International Visitor Leadership Program. He visited with former District Court Judge Patrick Moore at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Complex the day before to learn about the nation's judicial system.

Driver and Mongolian language translator, Sarangerel Langstrand, who was born in Mongolia and now resides in Colo., where she works for the U.S. State Department, accompanied Oktyabri. The work of the translator was required throughout the two-hour meeting since the legal scholar spoke both Mongolian and Russian languages but not English.

The other side of the conversation was presented in both the Euchee language and English by a unique group of Euchee elders including: Mary Watashe, Ann Holder, Maxine Barnett, Josephine Wildcat Bigler and Henry Kasa Washburn.

Beasankhuu visited the Euchee House in order to glean valuable information on the historical treatment and ongoing social and legal status of the United States' Indigenous Peoples. He will report what he has learned to the U.S. Department of State and to his home country of Mongolia.

The Euchee elders, all of which are in their 80s and 90s, meet daily at the Euchee House to teach the language and history of the Euchee people to younger generations. They are living encyclopedias full of knowledge of Euchee traditions and history and give generously of their time and expertise for the benefit of future generations.

Like other Euchee elders, those in attendance all grew up speaking their original tribal language. However, out of this group, due to boarding school experiences where Native

American children were forbidden to speak their tribal tongues, only Barnett, Bigler and Washburn are still able to speak fluently today in their indigenous language. That makes them part of an elite but shrinking circle of first-language Euchee speakers that also includes Martha Squire of Coweta.

After the passing of Josephine Barnett Keith of Sapulpa during the last month there are now—in the entire world—only four remaining elders who are fully-fluent speakers of the Euchee language. The elite group sorely misses the recent loss of Keith who shared the gifts that grew from her Euchee language skills, her inexhaustible cultural knowledge and indefatigable spirit.

The unusual choice made by the elders is to actively pass the language on to future generations. Unlike many of the surrounding tribes, they are not allowing the spoken language to end with their passing. The state of Oklahoma has already witnessed the loss of 14 languages, including Modoc, Natchez and Tonkawa that are thought to have no fully-fluent speakers anywhere. Other languages that have fallen silent in Okla., include Mesquakie (Fox), Cayuga and Seneca although they still have fluent speakers outside of the state. Languages that were once spoken within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation include: Alabama, Mikasuki, Cushatta and Hitchiti.

Interestingly, the Euchee language that elders carry in their minds and hearts is, in fact, a unique language called a “language isolate” by linguists. Of the 24 indigenous languages that are still spoken within Okla., only Euchee is not part of a larger group of sister languages such as the Muskogean, Siouan, Algonkian, Caddoan or Iroquoian language families.

This fact makes the meeting between a Mongolian lawyer and Euchee speaking elders all the more rare as the elders are bearers of knowledge that is not known any place else on earth.

The extremely positive contribution being made by the elders is

to work daily at the Euchee House to grow new, younger fluent speakers of the Euchee language. They have developed eight new adult speakers who are competent teachers of the Euchee language. They, in turn, teach the language to younger community members.

The Euchee House currently conducts daily after-school classes for over 30 children and youth using immersion methods where enjoyable learning activities are done in the Euchee language.

During the meeting, Oktyabri and Euchee elders covered a range of topics centering on the value of cultural diversity, the importance of minority languages and stories of oppression. Oktyabri spoke of his homeland where he leads a legal research center in the Capitol of Ulaanbaatar, where it is currently 30 degrees below zero.

During the time of Genghis Khan, the Mongolian Empire became the largest contiguous land empire in human history. In modern times, the state of Mongolia was created under the United Nations and preserved from the control of neighboring Russia and China. The present nation of Mongolia is more than twice the land area of Texas. However, when it achieved independence a half-century ago, it had only a population the size of Tulsa scattered over the enormous land area.

Euchee elders discussed stories of Removal from the old homeland on the Trail of Tears in the 1830s. Bigler told of her grandfather's participation 100 years ago in the armed resistance to breaking up tribal lands that was led by Chitto Harjo (known as Crazy Snake). Holder explained more recent political history concerning the Euchee community in the 1990s.

The international visitors were impressed with the positive work of the elders to create new Euchee speakers in Sapulpa and surrounding areas, despite many challenges. The ongoing work at the Euchee House will be featured in their final report to the U.S. State Department.

TU to host Native American Pre-Law Day March 3, 2012

Media Release

University of Tulsa College of Law

TULSA — The University of Tulsa College of Law will sponsor a Native American Pre-Law Day on Saturday, March 3, 2012 from 8:15 a.m.-5:30 p.m., to encourage Native American senior high school and early college students to consider a career in law.

Sessions will focus on how to prepare for law school, what law school is like (from student perspective), how to apply to law school, etc. Guests will also have an opportunity to observe a mock law class taught by Professor Bill Rice, Co-Director of Tulsa's Native American Law Center.

American Indian college and senior high school students are invited to attend. A limited number of scholarships are available to assist with travel costs for students outside easy driving distance of Tulsa.

Participants will have the opportunity to see whether law school is the right fit for them. They will learn how to prepare now for a future career in Law. Prominent Native American attorneys will discuss their backgrounds and careers, law school representatives will provide information about the law school admissions process and how to finance a legal educa-

tion, current Indian law students will tell what law school is really like, and Indian law professors will provide guidance on how to prepare for law school.

This workshop, which is funded by the Law School Admissions Council and co-hosted by Oklahoma City University School of Law, the University of Oklahoma College of Law, and the University of Tulsa College

of Law, is designed to heighten awareness about the numerous benefits associated with DiscoverLaw.org registration.

Space is limited, and registration is on a first come/first serve basis. Please register in advance. Walk-ins are welcomed only as space permits. email the information to lawadmissions@utulsa.edu or call (918) 631-2406 by Feb. 21, 2012.

Following the Native American Pre-Law Day, all attendees of the pre-law event are invited to tour the Enduring Spirit exhibit of Native American art and artifacts at Gilcrease Museum from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Shuttles will depart the TU campus at 4 p.m., for those who wish to be transported to and from the museum.

For more information, call (918) 631 - 2406.

Cancer Care Community Education offered in Holdenville through Feb.

Media Release

MCN Division of Health

HOLDENVILLE—Every Tuesday and Thursday, beginning Jan. 17, 2012, the Native Navigators will host cancer continuum sessions at the Holdenville Indian Community Center located at 224 E. Poplar St., in Holdenville.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health will be hosting educational seminars on cancer: prevention, early detection, survivorship and comfort/care. The project is subcontracted with Native American Cancer Research to conduct the Native Navigators and Cancer Continuum Project.

The project aims to increase cancer knowledge among the community participants, enhance the visibility and availability of the local Navigators who are available to help community members schedule screening appointments, carry out follow-up recommendations, and provide support and education for those diagnosed with cancer.

Trained patient navigators will conduct community-based cancer education seminars in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. All types of cancer will be covered and the workshops are open participation. A total of 24 hours of training will be offered.

The classes will be offered every Tuesday and Thursday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Participants will be evaluated pre- and post-seminar. A summary of results will be provided to the community and participants after the workshops are completed. In March the next education series will begin in another area of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation area.

For more information, please contact Kathy Cole at (918) 441-6048, Loretta Denny at (918) 441-6049 or Debra Isham, the Project Director at 1-855-623-1189.

Cancer Care Community Education Calendar

Time: 6-8 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays

Early' Detection:

Thursday, Jan. 26, 2012
Get on the Path to Breast Health

Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2012
Get on the Path to Colon Health

Thursday, Feb. 2, 2012
Get on the Path to Lung Health

Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2012
Get on the Path to Cervix Health

Thursday, Feb. 9, 2012
Get on the Path to Prostate Health

Survivorship:

Tuesday, Feb. 14
Native American Cancer Education for Survivors

Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012
Side Effects (NACES)

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2012
Survivors' Support Circles

Comfort/ Preventative Care:
Thursday, Feb. 23, 2012
Wills & Advance Directive

Everyone 18 years or older will receive a \$10 gift card after each session for participation.

College of the Muscogee Nation calls for public commentary for accreditation

Media Release

College of the Muscogee Nation

OKMULGEE — The College of the Muscogee Nation is seeking comments from the public about the college in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency.

The CMN will host a visit May 21-23, 2012, with a team representing

the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association.

The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet the Commission's Criteria for Accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the college via mail to:

Public Comment on College of the Muscogee Nation, The

Higher Learning Commission, 230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500, Chicago, IL 60604-1411

The public may also submit comments on the Commission's Web Site at www.ncahlc.org.

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs and must be in writing.

All comments must be received by April 21, 2012.



Summer Youth 2012

Accepting Applications: December 19 through March 2.
Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Youth Employment Program.

**To apply call 918 732.7775 or 7776
Or 1800 482-1979 ext. 7775 or 7776**

Deadline to get all the paperwork in to the office is March 16, 2012
No fax applications will be accepted. Must be a member of a
Federally recognized tribe and between the ages of 16 and 21.



**"What lies behind us and
what lies before us, are
small matters compared
to what lies within us."**